

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-06 HEW-04 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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MCT-01 /119 W

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R 051631Z OCT 76

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2744

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 7795

DEPT ALSO PASS TO DR EHRLICH, OIH/DHEW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO IS

SUBJECT: WHO DG MAHLER ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE AND STATUS OF  
WHO HEALTH COMMITTEE

REF: A. TEL AVIV 6272; B. STATE 232958; C. STATE 119695

1. SUMMARY. SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTELS A AND B, MISSION  
OFFICER HAD HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH DG MAHLER, ADG FURTH, AND  
C. VIGNES OF THE WHO LEGAL DIVISION, IN ADDITION TO CONTACT  
WITH THE ISRAELI MISSION IN GENEVA. A REPORT FOLLOWS ON  
DR MAHLER'S CURRENT VIEWS CONCERNING THE ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE  
IN GENERAL AND THE HEALTH EXPERT COMMITTEE IN PARTICULAR.  
SEPTEL TO FOLLOW ON PLO AND ON FELLOWSHIPS. END SUMMARY.

2. STATUS OF WHO HEALTH COMMITTEE. ON JUNE 28 OF THIS  
YEAR, DR MAHLER WROTE TO THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH OF  
ROMANIA, INDONESIA AND SENEGAL SUGGESTING A MEETING OF THE  
THREE HEALTH COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES IN GENEVA BY LATE  
OCTOBER-EARLY NOVEMBER FOR THE PURPOSES OF SELECTING  
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A NEW CHAIRMAN AND DISCUSSING "WHERE THE COMMITTEE GOES

FROM HERE". AS OF THIS DATE HE HAS RECEIVED NO REPLY FROM ANY OF THE THREE MEMBER STATES.

3. HOWEVER, DR MAHLER INFORMED US LAST WEEK HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO ROMANIA AND HUNGARY ON WHO BUSINESS FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND AGREED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON HIS RETURN ON RESULTS ACHIEVED, IF ANY, AS A CONSEQUENCE OF DISCUSSIONS WITH ROMANIAN HEALTH OFFICIALS. ONE SUGGESTION HE ENTERTAINED PRIOR TO HIS TRIP WAS TO DISCUSS WITH ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH OFFICIALS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ROMANIAN MEMBER BECOMING CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE IN VIEW OF 1) ROMANIA BEING THE ONLY ONE OF THE THREE COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ISRAEL HAS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS; 2) THE ROMANIAN MEMBER (DR TRAIAN INOESCO, CHIEF, EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SERVICES OF THE CITY OF BUCHAREST) BEING THE ONLY ONE OF THE THREE WHO HAS BEEN ON THE COMMITTEE SINCE ITS BEGINNING (APRIL 1974); 3) AND WHO, IN FACT, NOT ONLY WROTE THE HEALTH REPORT LATER DECLARED INADMISSIBLE BY MEMBERS OF THE 77 BLOC BUT WHO SPENT MORE TIME LAST SPRING IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND IN ISRAEL THAN THE OTHERS (TWO WEEKS). WE EXPECT TO MEET WITH DR MAHLER FOR ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THIS LATER THIS WEEK.

4. ALTHOUGH SENEGAL APPOINTED A REPLACEMENT FOR DR WONE LAST JUNE 11 (DR FODE WADE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN DAKAR), DR MAHLER REMINDED US THAT A REPLACEMENT DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY SUCCEED TO THE CHAIRMAN'S POSITION FORMERLY HELD BY DR WONE.

5. AS FOR THE INDONESIAN REPRESENTATIVE, DR MOLEJONO TRASTO-TENOJO, A PEDIATRICIAN FIRST APPOINTED IN MARCH 1974, WAS REPLACED BY CABLE TO WHO ON APRIL 26, BY DR DR DJOJO-SUGITO WIRJAWAN, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, DJAKARTA. DR MAHLER INDICATED HE WAS NOT SURE WHICH ONE WILL BE THE EVENTUAL COMMITTEE MEMBER.

6. IN SUMMARY AS DR MAHLER AND MR VIGNES EACH INDICATED

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ATED TO US, 1) THE GOVERNMENTS HAVE HET TO REPLY TO DR MAHLER'S JUNE LETTERS; 2) THE COMMITTEE HAS YET TO MEET; 3) NO CHAIRMAN HAS BEEN AGREED UPON AND SELECTED BY THE 3-MAN COMMITTEE, AS REQUIRED; 4) AND NO STEPS ON METHODS OF WORK NOR CONTACTS WITH THE ISRAELI MINISTRY OF HEALTH HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MANDATE CONTAINED IN RESOLUTION WHA26.56.

7. INITIATIVES ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE FOR NEXT WHA. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, DR MAHLER FEELS HIS HANDS ARE TIED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, ON TAKING ANY INITIATIVES. HE INFORMED US HE HAS NOT BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ISRAELI AUTHORITIES NOR HAS HE ANY IMMEDIATE PLANS FOR SO DOING. HE IS SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY NO RESPONSE TO HIS LETTERS OVER A 4-MONTH PERIOD. HE MAINTAINS HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT THE ISRAELI AUTHORITIES MAY BE THINKING, EXCEPT TO SAY THEY ARE PROBABLY NOT UNHAPPY WITH THE SITUATION.

8. AS FOR THE ISRAEL SUSPENSION ISSUE ARISING AT NEXT MAY'S WHA, HE REMINDED US THAT IT HAS NOT COME UP IN THE PAST TWO YEARS AND ADDED THAT HE DOES NOT THINK AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE 77 GROUP WOULD SUPPORT SUSPENSION. HE REFERRED TO THE 77 GROUP BEING DIVIDED ON THE INADMISSIBILITY ISSUE LAST MAY, RECALLING THAT EVEN THEIR DRAFT RESOLUTION HAD HAD REPERCUSSIONS. IF SUSPENSION COMES UP NEXT MAY, HE REMARKED OPTIMISTICALLY, ONCE AGAIN, IT WOULD BE AFRICANS VERSUS ARABS.

9. COMMENT. MISSION BELIEVES DDG LAMBO PLAYED A GENUINE LEADERSHIP ROLE LAST MAY IN KEEPING THE AFRICAN VOTE DOWN ON THE INADMISSIBILITY ISSUE. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DRS MAHLER AND LAMBO APPEARS TO BE CLOSER THAN IN THE RECENT PAST (SEPTTEL FOLLOWS), AND DR MAHLER MAY BE BASING SOME OF HIS SANGUINE ATTITUDE ON A PROMISE BY DR LAMBO TO DELIVER THE AFRICAN VOTE. CATTO

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 TEL AVIV 6272, 76 STATE 232958, 76 STATE 119695  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WHO DG MAHLER ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUE AND STATUS OF WHO HEALTH COMMITTEE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PORG, EAID, IS, WHO, PLO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006